

IDEAL Technical Assistance

Use of Parent/Caregiver Interview Tools

Why is parent/caregiver perspective important?

- ☞ Child is typically more comfortable at home
- ☞ Child may show parent more/different skills.
- ☞ Introduction of an unfamiliar person changes the child's behavior.
- ☞ Interview process gives an opportunity to explain why tracking skills is important and skills to expect at the child's age of development.
- ☞ Talking with the parent helps gain insight on their perspectives/concerns about their child's skills.



Who could be considered a caregiver?

- ✓ Parents
- ✓ Grandparents
- ✓ Other family
- ✓ Babysitter
- ✓ Daycare Providers
- ✓ Guardian

How to elicit valid answers?

- Develop a positive relationship and rapport with the child's caregiver(s).
- Remember: the parent is the expert on their child.
- Allow caregiver to answer; give them time to think; repeat back what you think the caregiver provided to ensure accuracy.
- Be available to answer questions or provide examples/clarification.
- Be careful not to give an impression there is a 'right' answer
- Use thoughtful and purposeful wording so as not to appear judgmental.
- Learn about the child's linguistic and cultural community and consult with bilingual professionals regarding acceptable vocabulary, grammar, and language production differences.
- Be aware of the caregivers' emotions.
- Offer flexibility for caregivers to complete independently, with assistance, or as dialogue to record caregivers' answers.
- Help responders ensure they did not overlook any questions.

